

The Daily Oregonian

TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 17, 1881.

A SORDID PICTURE.

A committee appointed by the San Francisco board of trade has been investigating the burning debris question as presented in California. The committee, it says, is a deplorable picture. It costs \$1,000,000 to burn 100,000 cubic yards of debris. The cost of a few miles above Marysville, with the annual discharge of sand, gravel, rock and mud into the Yuba river alone is calculated at about 20,000,000 cubic yards. Into Bear river the discharge is also enormous. The beds of the streams have been raised above the level of the surrounding country, and vast tracts of land are subject to inundation with every moderate rise. Tens of thousands of acres of the finest lands have been ruined by deposits of gravel and sand. The committee reports the condition of a large amount of country on Feather river below the junction of the Yuba as one of utter desolation. On Bear river were seen even more deplorable evidences, not only of man's hand but of the total destruction of the lowlands by heavy floods of sand and debris. No language, the report says, can express an adequate idea of the scene presented at the Yuba and Bear river ranches. The lands were represented to have been among the finest in the state under full cultivation a few years ago, yet now they are sandy deserts.

The residences have been raised from time to time some feet above their original base, to avoid the debris, but, finally, they have been entirely abandoned as too unsafe for habitation. The river beds are now with sand plains, entirely covered in the flood season with silt current laden with further supplies of debris, to be deposited on the farms lower down. An interesting account is given by the committee of the present system of hydraulic mining, a system which dates from the invention in 1870 of the "Chief," a caisson-shaped machine which rests the ground and receives the terminal end of a pipe through which flows within a given time 50 per cent more water than that furnished for the entire supply of San Francisco. By the aid of traction rollers it can be rapidly run in any direction, and can be managed by a boy. It projects an eight or nine-inch stream of water a distance of 300 to 400 feet, and with 1750 horsepower as to readily move rocks weighing several tons. The machines are called "monitors" and "little giants," and serve, as used at times in mining all day, and at night by the aid of electric lights. "Kinderhook" deposits from 100 to 300 feet in depth are washed down to the bedrock, and the whole mass of clay, sand and small rock is discharged through sluices, in a greater or less quantity, directly or indirectly, into the channel of the rivers. The reservoirs from which the water is drawn are situated well up in the Sierras, and ditches conducting it to the mines are in some instances forty to seventy miles in length. The works for the discharge of debris have been excavated for miles in length through the bedrock. These works have cost very large sums of money, amounting to millions of dollars. The officers of the North Bloomfield, Milon, Urkka Lake, American, Eureka and South Yuba companies informed the committee that about \$10,000,000 had been expended on that alone. The total capital invested in hydraulic mines is estimated to be \$80,000,000, and it is represented that the amount of gold produced annually from these mines in California is about one-eighth of the precious aggregate product of the world. The committee passed through many mining villages and towns, all showing evidences of drift and prosperity. Comfortable school houses were seen in every village, and the orchards and gardens surrounding the homes of the miners betokened a degree of comfort unusual for any laboring class. The report says that the discharge of debris, if continued at present, will be disastrous to larger and larger areas of agricultural lands. Like a lava flow it will sweep over fields and render sterile an entire section of country blotting out its former beauty and as it is reducing it to a desert, great care is exercised that dams and reservoirs shall be constructed for retaining the debris, and that the expense thereof should be borne by the mining interest. It is recommended that representatives of the agricultural and mining interests make no convention to secure if possible an amicable adjustment of the questions at issue, so that security may be obtained against further invasion of the valley by debris. Such convention is in session this week at Sacramento.

SMALL POX.

There is unusual prevalence of small pox in nearly all eastern cities. From January 1st to October 1st, 1850 cases were reported in Chicago, of which about one and a half percent proved fatal. By far the larger number of cases occur in a single ward of the city—the Fourth—where the greater portion of the foreign element of the lower orders live, and where attempts at vaccination in at home have been met by open violence. In that ward there are 4000 persons who have not been vaccinated, and of the 108 deaths from small pox which occurred in Chicago during September, 1850, 81 were in that division of the city. Since the 1st January over 1000 cases have been reported in Pittsburgh, and the disease has spread until the authorities are resorting to extraordinary measures to check it. The death rate from small pox is still now average about 20 per week, being out-of-date of the entire mortality. This malady is reported also in St. Paul, Milwaukee, Ind., Indianapolis, Detroit, Cleveland, and indeed nearly every city. It is well known, of course, that no considerable city is ever entirely free from it, but the present time it is more prevalent in many cities than for a long time before. At San Francisco it is more prevalent than usual, but not so much as to excite real alarm, as wide dispersion through Oregon and Washington seems to be due chiefly to the fact that most people were unacquainted with it and therefore suffered the seeds of it to become scattered before they were aware what it was.

On a recent Sunday officers appeared at the door of a Roman Catholic church in Chicago, with orders to compel the members of the congregation to submit to vaccination before their departure for home. This incident forcibly decided the alarm of the authorities over the spread of the smallpox in the city. An eminent physician of Philadelphia has declared that city in great peril from the health-some disease upon the advent of cold weather. In other parts of Pennsylvania it is making inroads, and in Pittston, on the Susquehanna, it is causing great consternation. In a climate like that of the eastern states winter is the season in which its ravages are most terrible. In California the state board of health and special authorization of the governor has undertaken to arrange for inspection of incoming trains and passengers of all kinds of cars and carriages. Inspectors will visit the trains on the C. P. R. I. east of Truckee, and the S. P. R. I. east of Colton. It is announced that the railway offices have promised to cooperate with the health authorities in carrying out the sanitary regulations which may be adopted.

A foreign dispatch says that Shucks are after an expert as editor. This is probably a misprint for scriber.

A PALPABLE EPOCH.

The station accurately prints the following paragraph and a Portland paper gives much space to:

"The Chinese have abandoned their tribal relations and tribal forms of local government on their reservations similar to the way the Indian tribes are located. He thinks the Indians titles to reservations should be individualized and each Indian be confined in the title to his share of the said reservation."

California is anxious to the fact that analogous is quite a stigma upon her, and is endeavoring to take away of wheat from the colonies and the Indian titles to reservations should be individualized and each Indian be confined in the title to his share of the said reservation."

The tendency is to amalgamate Kentucky checked in Indiana. Massachusetts has been playing the rôle of various industrial parts. By recent statistics 111,000 persons were working in the mills and factories of that state. At San Francisco wheat is \$1.40 per bushel, and it is selling at \$1.05. This difference is considerable enough without evangeli-

zation, unless the subscription be paid in full to newspapers which do not have the news. The principal stir towards reduction of the difference between the price of wheat in the Columbia river and at San Francisco is caused by the raising of the embargo of her pilots and towage maintained by Capt. Flavel. This is not the only reform needed by any means, but it is a necessary first step.

The largest grain deal ever made or completed by one man or firm was successfully effected in Chicago during October by J. C. Hobbs of that city. He bought and sold 6,000,000 bushels of corn, and signed checks for \$100,000,000 while making the deal. In the early part of October he had some 3,000,000 bushels of corn ready for shipment east. Late freights entered into the calculation. The owners of vessels that he would give them all they could do for the rest of the fall, offering them three cents a bushel to carry the corn to Buffalo. The vessel men held off for three and a half cents, and after consulting together polynomially declined his offer. The decision was a great mistake. Within one hour the railroads learned of it and offered to carry the corn to New York for seven cents, which sum was to include the three cents technical charges. It was an unprecedented offer, which no man could refuse, and Mr. Hobbs' principals took graphed in hand to accept. The offer was accepted and in a twinkling the vessel men found the most gigantic game and salt over laid eyes. They have since come down from three to one cent and even offered vessel free, so as to have ballast. They are now stripping for winter, having refused work enough to occupy every vessel on the lake till

The latest reports show that the "Oregon Short Line" is making remarkable progress. It will be added to Portland's lines of communication before many persons realize it. The opinion is freely expressed that this will be the main line of the Union Pacific as far as completed, with steel rails, forty miles a distance of 300 to 400 feet, and with 1750 horsepower as to readily move rocks weighing several tons. The machines are called "monitors" and "little giants," and serve, as used at times in mining all day, and at night by the aid of electric lights. "Kinderhook" deposits from 100 to 300 feet in depth are washed down to the bedrock, and the whole mass of clay, sand and small rock is disengaged through sluices, in a greater or less quantity, directly or indirectly, into the channel of the rivers. The reservoirs from which the water is drawn are situated well up in the Sierras, and ditches conducting it to the mines are in some instances forty to seventy miles in length. The works for the discharge of debris have been excavated for miles in length through the bedrock. These works have cost very large sums of money, amounting to millions of dollars. The officers of the North Bloomfield, Milon, Urkka Lake, American, Eureka and South Yuba companies informed the committee that about \$10,000,000 had been expended on that alone. The total capital invested in hydraulic mines is estimated to be \$80,000,000, and it is represented that the amount of gold produced annually from these mines in California is about one-eighth of the precious aggregate product of the world. The committee passed through many mining villages and towns, all showing evidences of drift and prosperity. Comfortable school houses were seen in every village, and the orchards and gardens surrounding the homes of the miners betokened a degree of comfort unusual for any laboring class. The report says that the discharge of debris, if continued at present, will be disastrous to larger and larger areas of agricultural lands. Like a lava flow it will sweep over fields and render sterile an entire section of country blotting out its former beauty and as it is reducing it to a desert, great care is exercised that dams and reservoirs shall be constructed for retaining the debris, and that the expense thereof should be borne by the mining interest. It is recommended that representatives of the agricultural and mining interests make no convention to secure if possible an amicable adjustment of the questions at issue, so that security may be obtained against further invasion of the valley by debris. Such convention is in session this week at Sacramento.

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and Commission Merchants
Prop. Mr. Ben. Pine and Asst.
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CILMAN & CO., Auctioneers.

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time and Eventual, as advertised.

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cotton from the Factories,
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bought to this mar-
keting of Vene-
grain, Extra Super-
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etc., which they
very low prices.

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ry stock of

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superior in finish
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from Califor in
Eastern States.

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IN

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